



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Volume 57 Number 5

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

October/Nov. 2016

Election 2016: Support Green Choices

By VICTORIA BRANDON,
REDWOOD CHAPTER POLITICAL CHAIR

As the November 8, 2016 election approaches, Sierra Club activists have been engaged in the painstaking task of identifying the best candidates in local races such as county supervisor and city councilor. The results of these grassroots contests often have momentous consequences, with the question coming down to this: do we want to foster the best qualities of the North Coast—abundant open space, towering forests, free-running rivers, charming, friendly small towns with a rural atmosphere—or do we want to become like the rest of California?

We think the choices are clear, and that the election of candidates endorsed by the Sierra Club offers the best hope of making those choices wisely. So please examine the endorsement list on our Facebook page, [Redwood Chapter Facebook](#), and give your vote to the individuals named there that appear on your ballot. Please also consider making a personal endorsement, volunteering a few hours of time, or donating money: the future of all our communities hangs in the balance this November, and action by Club members can potentially tip that balance.

The Club is also supporting a number of state propositions and local ballot measures, including

one that is presented in a way that may confuse some voters. Prop 67 is misleadingly titled “Referendum to Overturn Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags” but actually a “yes” vote will uphold the plastic bag ban passed by the legislature in 2014: so do please Vote Yes on 67.

Let’s Hit the Road

As we have done in the past, the national Sierra Club is organizing a major get-out-the-vote campaign in battleground states, with the main focus being Washoe County, Nevada.

As the Needles was going to press, specific plans for volunteer outreach had not yet been determined, but the Club will probably charter buses from the Bay Area to Reno, free housing may be available, and organizers will make sure the work of volunteer walkers and phone canvassers will be as effective as possible. Interested in this chance to make a real difference? Please contact Chapter Political Chair Victoria Brandon at 707 994 1931 or vbrandon@lakelive.info for more information.

Congressman Thompson Opposes the TPP

Just before the Redwood Needles went to press we got some great news: despite strong pressure from the Obama administration and some of his powerful donors, Congressman Mike Thompson issued a strongly worded letter to his constituents opposing the Trans-Pacific Partnership toxic trade deal.

Redwood Chapter representatives, in partnership with North Bay labor organizations and others, have had an ongoing dialog on this subject with Congressman Thompson over the past two years. Although he always seemed receptive to our point of view, it wasn’t until after an August 18 meeting organized by the Citizens Trade Campaign where Sonoma Group activist June Brashares represented the Club, that he made a definitive statement opposing the deal. His constituent letter says in part: “I have carefully reviewed the released TPP language with a sharp eye and concern for safety, labor, and environmental protections ... Based on this stringent review, I do not believe the TPP, as currently drafted, meets the standard for a good trade deal. Although the agreement may be improved on, I cannot support the TPP at this time.”

He reiterated his opposition to the TPP over the Labor Day weekend while speaking at the Central Labor Council’s Labor Breakfast: “The TPP that’s before us now is not good trade policy. The TPP

“Thompson Opposes TPP” cont. on page 3



Sierra Club’s June Brashares (front right), Napa-Solano Central Labor Council Executive Director Jon Riley (middle), and other activists meet with Congressman Mike Thompson (front left) on August 18

Diane Beck Remembered: Life of North Coast Activist Inspires

The very sad news of the September 6 death of Redwood Chapter’s longtime Conservation Chair Diane Fairchild Beck reached us just as the Redwood Needles was going to press. This article originally appeared as a Kin to the Earth tribute in the Aug/Sept 2016 issue of EcoNews, published by the Northcoast Environmental Center in Arcata.

By GREGG GOLD, NORTH GROUP CHAIR

Diane Beck has long been an inspiration as a member of the North Coast environmental community. Known for her fierce advocacy and reasoned approach to complex issues, her work (all of it volunteer) has had a profound positive impact on the lives of everyone who is privileged to call the North Coast home.

Raised in North Hollywood, CA, Diane received her B.A. from UCLA in European History in 1957. She moved to Berkeley and then earned a Masters in French History in 1960. Diane’s pursuits were primarily literary, working with Bancroft Whitney as a copy editor for two years and then as a manuscript editor at the University of California Press for 10 years in Berkeley. Following a year in Europe, Diane returned to become a founding member and owner of a new bookstore, University Press Books in Berkeley. Always a champion for justice, Diane was active in the anti-Vietnam War movement.

Along the way, she married and among other activities, she and her husband enjoyed camping in Mexico in a VW bus. Long before it became cool, Diane and her husband were riding motorcycles (her beloved husband passed away in 1972). The bikes Diane chose to ride—Ducatis—gives one an insight to her



character. Ducatis are beautiful, mechanically and physically demanding, high-strung bikes that reward commitment, expertise and fearlessness and punish (often painfully) ham-handed, overly cautious riders. These are the very same traits that have made Diane so effective as an environmentalist; she is absolutely committed to a cause, up to the rigorous intellectual and physical demands of the work, is an expert in the field, and is absolutely fearless when it comes to protecting the environment.

Her environmental activism started when Reagan was elected president and appointed

“Diane Beck Inspires” cont. on page 3

Please Vote on November 8th



For more Redwood Chapter information:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/redwood>

More Protection for Spotted Owl



On August 26, 2016, as the culmination of a four year review process, the California Fish and Game Commission voted unanimously to list the northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) as “threatened” under the California Endangered Species Act.

The owl has been listed under the federal ESA since 1990. In 1994, the Northwest Forest Plan

established protections for the spotted owl and other species inhabiting late-successional forests in Washington, Oregon, and California; the first critical habitat designation came in 1992, a recovery plan was first issued in 2008, and new critical habitat designation was published in 2012. As a result of these efforts the decline of the species has become less precipitous but has not been arrested, much less reversed. It is apparent that without additional protections recovery will be impossible.

The primary threat to the northern spotted owl, which requires old growth forests to survive, is habitat loss to timber harvest, not only in the past but on an ongoing basis, combined with competition from the aggressive barred owl, an invasive species native to the eastern United States. The owls are now also at risk from the use of rodenticides and other toxic chemicals widely used in trespass marijuana grows. There is also concern about additional habitat loss from the impacts of climate change.

“The listing of the northern spotted owl is one small step towards recovery,” said Tom Wheeler, Program Director at the Environmental Protection Information Center, which initiated the petition to protect the owl under the California ESA. “The owl was here long before us. It is our moral obligation to ensure that the owl will continue to roam our forests long after we are gone.”

Taylor Mt. Regional Park and Open Space Preserve Work Day

The Sonoma County Trails Council is working with Sonoma County Regional Parks to build more trails at Taylor Mountain Regional Park and Open Space Preserve, and we are beginning work on an extension of the Redtail Trail. This effort is supported by a Sierra Club donation and members are encouraged to participate, although this is not an official Sierra Club work party.

Our next work day is Saturday, October 22 from 9am to about 1pm at the new Taylor Mountain Regional Park entrance at 3820 Petaluma Hill Road, Santa Rosa, south of Yolanda Avenue (just past the Wheeler-Zamaroni Quarry). If you are coming from Santa Rosa, use the new left turn lane to enter the parking area. Drive up and to the left, to the north end where we’ll meet - watch for the white Trails Council tool trailer.

Bring a daypack with water, gloves, a hat, and wear long pants, boots or hiking shoes.

No experience necessary - we have tools and trained crew leaders with tasks for all strengths and sizes of volunteers.

This workday is open to the public, so feel free to attend and invite your friends. In order to make sure we have enough tools and after-work beverages please email trailscouncil@sonic.net if you plan to attend.

“Thompson Opposes TPP”

continued from page 1

doesn’t protect American jobs, it doesn’t protect workers in foreign countries, it doesn’t protect our environment, and it’s just terrible on the issue of currency manipulation.”

Representative Thompson’s announcement falls on the heels of House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi’s recent rejection of the TPP, adding to the growing chorus of opposition to the controversial trade pact, including the vast majority of Democratic Party members, both major presidential candidates, and a broad national coalition of labor, environmental,

public health, family farm, social justice, and consumer protection advocates.

The Sierra Club thanks Congressman Thompson for hearing our concern that the TPP would enable polluting fossil fuel corporations to undermine national laws that protect our health, safety, and planet. We applaud him for standing up for our communities and the environment in opposing the proposed TPP.

Please add your voice by calling Mike’s office at 707-226-9898 to say “thank you for standing with us to protect the environment, working families, and our communities.”

“Diane Beck Inspires”

continued from page 1

James Watt (number six on Time magazine’s 10 worst cabinet members of all time) as Secretary of the Interior. In response Diane joined the Sierra Club in 1981. Her activism began when she moved to Humboldt Country in 1991.

Through the 90s Diane worked in various ways (along with EPIC, Earth First!, and many others) to save the Headwaters Forest. For her efforts, she was arrested twice for civil disobedience and saw the Headwater’s Forest Preserve established in 1999.

As those familiar with Diane’s work know, most of her accomplishments have taken place under the aegis of the Sierra Club. In that capacity, for many years she traveled bimonthly to Willits and Santa Rosa for Redwood Chapter meetings and retreats, not to mention speaking at meetings including as far away as Southern California when the circumstances demanded. She also represented the Sierra Club as a member of the Board of Directors of the Northcoast Environmental Center (NEC) from 1996 to 2006.

As a member of the Northwestern California Bureau of Land Management Resource Advisory Council from 1998 to 2010, she worked on a number of issues. Of particular note is her success in getting motor vehicles off Black Sands Beach, located on the Lost Coast just north of Shelter Cove. In order to accomplish this, she traveled widely, speaking at public meetings, where she was (in the beginning) one of the very few who were against motor vehicles on that beach. This was not a popular issue at the time. Similarly, she was a primary force—along with Sue Leskiw and the Redwood Region Audubon Society—in getting motor vehicles off of Clam Beach in 2006. This took years of documenting vehicle tracks, testifying at meetings, and enlisting others to speak and write about the dangers that speeding trucks, motorcycles, and ATVs posed to both people and wildlife (primarily, the endangered snowy plovers).

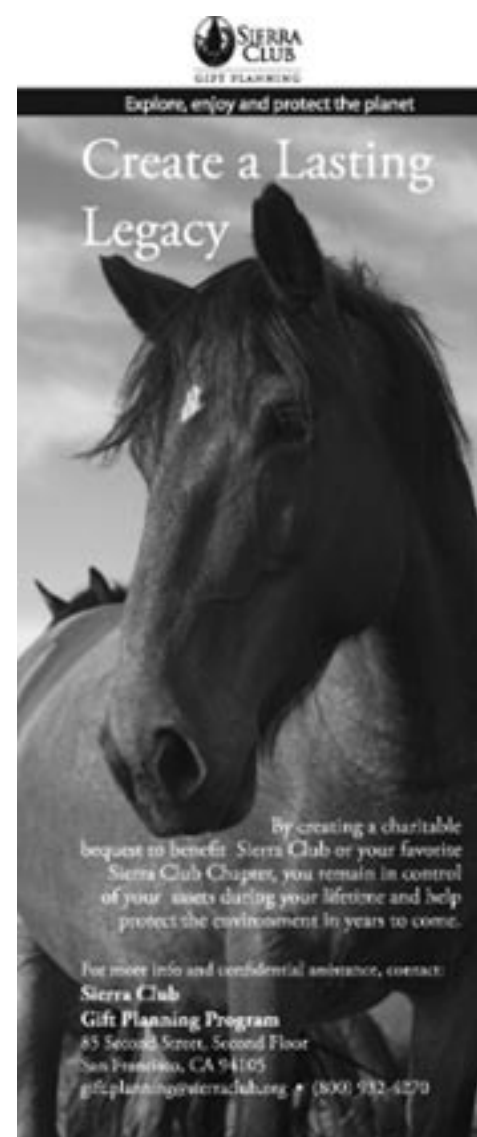
Diane served as the Sierra Club’s North Group representative to the Redwood Chapter from 2000 to 2005 and was Redwood Chapter Conservation Chair from 2005 until 2016. As such she contributed to the successful campaign to stop logging in Bohemian Grove (opposed by some of the most powerful men in the US), was successful in preventing many forest-to-vineyard conversions, and contributed to protecting over 1700 acres of coastal forests on the Mendocino and Sonoma county lines. She also worked (along with many others) to help pass the Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act of 2006, which protects in perpetuity 42,585 acres of the King Range National Conservation Area. In addition, she found an attorney and money to fight the disastrous practice of salvage logging in the Big Bar area after the Big Bar Fire in 1999. She also worked diligently with other California Sierra Club Chapters to develop a position paper of recommendations on Klamath dam removal.

Diane has worked closely with Elk River and Freshwater Creek residents in trying to

get Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) limits for their rivers from the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. Among other things, this work requires exacting written comments made to public agencies. The task is unglamorous, unsung, and critically important. Despite this, Diane has always stepped forward when needed and has written numerous comments expressing the Sierra Club position on local environmental issues. When it comes to protecting the environment, Diane unflinchingly does what is required—from being dragged off in handcuffs to the lonely task of writing comments hunched in front of the computer late into the night.

Diane has fought and continues to fight for our local forests, streams, and wildlife. She fights not for herself, but for the generations to come. She has not, will not, and cannot be intimidated by those who would destroy our rural way of life and our children’s legacy because of greed and selfishness. She does it because she cares and has never received a single dime of compensation for her thousands of hours of work. She does it because she loves this planet, the North Coast, and the plants, animals, and people who make it such a rare and special place to live. She is truly a Kin to the Earth.

If you wish your bequest to be used locally, be sure to specify “Sierra Club Redwood Chapter” or the name of your local Group in your bequest.



Outings

Sun. Oct. 2 - Mendo Group. Peter Douglas Trail hike Lost Coast.

The Peter Douglas Trail is a new extension of the southern end of the Lost Coast Trail. The trail has been opened by the Save the Redwood League and the Mendocino Land Trust on the former privately owned Shady Dell property. The trail takes you through an amazing grove of candelabra redwoods with massive limbs warped by wind and along bluffs with sweeping ocean views. There is an option to group camp at MacKerricher State Park on Sat. Oct. 1. Bring lunch, water, layered clothing. Carpools: Meet 9:30 Harvest Market parking lot, Fort Bragg. Class M-4.6-A. By reservation only. Leader Yvonne Kramer, 707 463-0342, kramer@saber.net

Sat. Oct. 8 - North Group. Humboldt Redwoods SP Grasshopper Peak Hike.

Join us for this late-season adventure. Now that we are all in top condition from the year's activities; let's hike this 3,379-foot mountain before the days get too short. We will revel in lush old-growth redwoods, fall color, and, weather permitting, vistas near and far of the Mattole and Eel river country, the Lassics, and the Avenue of the Giants. We can see the succession of recovery since

the 2003 Canoe Fire burned a portion of Grasshopper's southern flank. Bring lots of water and lunch, and dress for the weather. No dogs. Class M-13.5-B. Carpools: Meet 7:30 am Herrick/Hikshari Park & Ride, or in Arcata by prior arrangement. Leader Ned, nedforsyth48@gmail.com, (707)825-3652. Heavy rain cancels.



Sat. - Wed. Oct. 15-19 - Panamint City Backpack & Backcountry Cabin Assessment.

Come assist Park volunteer Birgitta Jansen in assessing the state of backcountry cabins in Death

Valley National Park. We will meet Saturday evening at Chris Wickt camp and backpack up Surprise Canyon to Panamint City on Sunday. Monday and Tuesday, we will work with Birgitta on assessing the condition of the cabins. If we finish early, there will be time for exploring this interesting historical area. Not a beginning backpack. There is water in the canyon, but may require a hike to get it and it must be filtered before drinking. Be prepared to carry all the food and equipment needed for the trip, as well as helping to carry some of the measuring items we will be using. Contact leader Kate Allen, kj.allen96@gmail.com, 661-944-

4056. Group size limited. CNRCC Desert Committee

Sat.-Sun., Oct. 22-23 - Ghost Town Extravaganza.

Celebrate Halloween by visiting the ghosts of California's colorful past in the eerie desert landscape near Death Valley. Camp near the historic ghost town of Ballarat. Saturday, a challenging hike to ghost town Lookout City with historian Hal Fowler who will regale us with tales of this wild west town. We'll return to camp for Happy Hour and a potluck feast, followed by a midnight visit to Ballarat's graveyard. On Sunday, we'll tour the town of Ballarat itself before heading home. Send \$8 per person (check payable to Lygeia Gerard), home and work phones, email address and rideshare preferences to Leader: Lygeia Gerard, P.O. Box 721039, Pinon Hills, CA 92372, 760-868-2179. (assisted by Marguerite McGuigan) Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

Sat. Oct. 29 - Lake Group. Six Sigma Ranch hike.

We will hike the historic old stagecoach route from Lower Lake to Knoxville, following the ranch road through Six Sigma ranch heading east toward Morgan Valley road. We will stop by the Ranch tasting room on the way, so bring along cash or credit

card if so inclined. Much of the hike will follow Asbill Creek and canyon to the confluence with Soda Creek. We will return aboard the ranch's Pinzgauer, a vintage European military 6X6, making the hike approximately 6 miles one way. This limits the number of hikers to 10 people. Class E-6-A. Carpools 8:30 am Lower Lake Coffee Company, Main St. Lower Lake. By reservation only. Leader Tom McFarling (707) 994-5490. Rain cancels.

Wed. Nov. 2 - North Group. Del Norte Coast Redwoods St. Park Hike.

We will be hiking on the Hobbs-Saddler-Trestle Trails. Starting within a ridgeline swath of old growth, we soon enter maturing second-growth, descending eventually to lush creek side flats. Our trail broadly skirts the (empty) campground, fords Mill Creek, then returns upwards via switchbacks (some steep) through rugged forest to close our loop. Bring water, lunch, hiking footwear. No dogs. Class: M-6-A. Carpools: Meet 9 am Ray's Valley West parking. Trailhead 10:30 am Mill Creek Campground Rd gate (off Hwy 101, 7.6 mi N of Wilson Creek). Leader Melinda 707-668-4275 mgroomster@gmail.com Steady rain cancels.



Redwood National Park hike lunch break, Hidden Beach. By Coastal Trail Leader Melinda Groom.

Instructions to hikers

Outings will start not later than 15 minutes after scheduled meeting time. The leader is in charge of the trip and is responsible for your welfare and the good name of the Club. He/she must have your cooperation to make the trip safe, pleasant and rewarding. Never charge ahead of the leader and keep within sight or shouting distance of the person ahead of you so you do not miss an intersecting trail. Do not lag behind rear leader: if you need help, the rear leader will remain to assist you. Do not leave the group without the leader's permission. Be adequately equipped and prepared. You should carry lunch and liquids. Wear footwear appropriate for the outing. In most cases that would be hiking boots.

Guard against fire. Do not smoke on Sierra Club outings. Build fires only with the leader's permission, and extinguish them completely. Guns, pets, or radios are not to be brought on hikes.

The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Participants assume the risks associated with travel. Reimburse the carpool driver. Carpools are not part of the outing but a means of conserving natural resources.

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the liability waiver please go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>, or contact the Outings Department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version.

Visitors are welcome

All Sierra Club trips are open to the public unless otherwise announced. You are free to bring all members of your family and guests. Children are usually welcome, but please call the leader to make sure it is an appropriate hike.

DIFFICULTY	MILEAGE	ELEVATION GAIN
E - Easy	Actual	A - Less than 1,000
M - Moderate	Mileage	B - 1,000 to 2,000
H - Hard		C - 2,000 to 3,000
S - Strenuous		D - over 3,000
V - Very Strenuous		

The actual mileage will be listed for each trip. Elevation gain will reflect the gain from the start of the hike to the highest point. If you need to know the cumulative gain, please contact the leader.

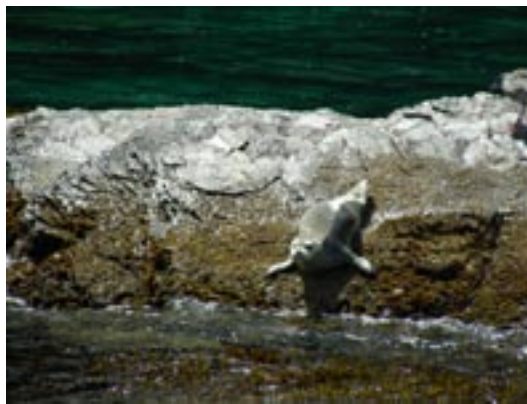
To submit outings write-ups

Send all outings write-ups to: Carol Vellutini, Outings Chair, (carolvrs@sonic.net) by the 8th of the month. All leaders must coordinate their outings with their Group Outings Chair.

CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

Oct. 23-25, 2016



Join us for a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard cruise to California's Channel Islands! Hike wild, windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines. Snorkle in pristine waters teeming with colorful fish. Swim with frolicking seals and sea lions. Look for unusual sea and land birds. Watch for the highly endangered island fox. Or..... just relax at sea! All cruises depart from Santa Barbara. The cost, \$650, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks and beverages plus the services of a naturalist-docent assigned by the national park to help lead hikes, point out items of interest and give evening program. For more information contact leader: Joan Jones Holtz; 626-443-0706; jholtzhl@aol.com. To make a reservation send a \$100 check, written to Sierra

Club, to leader, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732.

Ratings for Outings Leaders: How fast or slow do you go?

Wonder if an outing leader walks fast or slow? Keep in mind that the leader's speed is but one part of hiking. How high up a mountain the hike starts, the total mileage and elevation gain (up hill) and loss (down hill) greatly affect the difficulty of a hike, regardless of how fast or slow you walk. If you have any doubts about being able to do a hike or have other questions, please call the leader to discuss your concerns. These ratings only serve as a guide and are not a substitute for you being in appropriate physical condition before participating in an outing.

Leaders are grouped according to how fast they normally hike. Please keep in mind that this info is to help you decide if a hike is right for you. The outing rating instructions to hikers is also important for participants to read. Look at the difficulty of the hike. If the rating is moderate with few or more frequent stops a fast pace hiker must hike slower to accommodate that rating.

Varies, see hike description for details: Isabelle Saint-Guily Jim Gannon Phil Kohlmetz

Fast-pace with few or no stops: Paul Bozzo Carol Magill Paul Farley

Moderate-pace with few stops: Don Anderson Lorrie Lagasse Julie Kreis

Moderate-pace with more frequent stops: Pete McGee Tom McFarling Melinda Groom Carl Inglin

Val Nordeman Carol Vellutini Yvonne Kramer Brian Collett Nanette DeDonato Jonah Freedman

Steve Devoto Ned Forsyth Nick Caston Tim Bartice

Slower-pace: Allison Bronkall

Sun. Nov. 6 – North Group. Horse Mountain Botanical Area Hike.

Two loop trails, each just over 2 miles, mostly on dirt roads: one to the west of our parking area, past the old "Ski Chalet" site, with views of the King Range, the Siskiyou, and the coast, and another loop to the north and east among rugged Jeffrey pines, red rocks, and a short stretch of cobblestone-strewn single track, looking at the Trinity Alps, the Yolla Bollys, and maybe a peek at Mt. Lassen. Bring lunch, water and good boots. No dogs. Class M-5-A. Carpools Meet 9 am Valley West (Ray's) Shopping Center, or meet 10 am Horse Mtn. parking area. Leader Ned, nedforsyth48@gmail.com or (707)825-3652. Heavy rain cancels.

Sierra Club Volunteer/Activist Opportunities

Seeking a bilingual volunteer to respond to questions from members of the public through Redwood Chapter's Spanish website page. This position should only take a few hours a month, and will support our outreach efforts. For more information, please contact: Mary at odavison@sonic.net

Napa Group Treasurer: This is an opportunity to serve the Sierra Club without too heavy an investment in time, and without leaving home. No meetings to attend! Our accounts are kept on QuickBooks, and we have only a few transactions each month. The treasurer does need to become familiar with C3 vs C4 forms. If you might be interested, contact me at nancy@aya.yale.edu

Outing Chairs and Leaders: All groups need more outing leaders. Redwood Chapter also is missing Group Outing Chairs for Mendocino, Napa, North, Solano and Sonoma. Qualifications are explained Training offered. Our program is only strong when we have all positions filled. Please help out. Info Carol 546-6308 or carolvsr@sonic.net

Get CHARGED by attending the Climate & Energy Committee. Join us on the 1st of the month at 5:00-5:30 p.m. at the Environmental Center in Santa Rosa, learn about what is going on in our community to fight climate change through renewable energy programs. Contact Chair Shirley Johnson-Foell: Email: Shirlgirl707@Yahoo.com, home 206-1138, or call office 544-7651.

Outings Chair Report

In my last Outings Chair report I spoke of the Valley Fire in Lake County burning down a former Lake Group leader's home. My son lives in Hidden Valley and his health was and always will be affected by the smoke from that fire. The recovery has been long and difficult for many residents. The August Clayton Fire in Lake County burned 4,000 acres. The Clayton fire burned down my good friend's daughter's home by Lower Lake. Her family lost everything. These fast moving, hot fires do not afford residents time to save family treasures. Sierra Club leaders offer outings to areas affected by climate change and fires. They need to re-scout familiar trails as trees have fallen, springs have dried up and the landscape has changed.

In the next edition of the Redwood Needles I hope to include some photos of the Oct. 2nd outing to the Peter Douglas Trail that will be led by Yvonne Kramer. Luckily I have found a carpool (thanks Marv) from Ft. Bragg. The Usal Road to the trailhead is not maintained and is in poor condition. I am spending the night before in Ft. Bragg because of the long drive from Santa Rosa. Peter was one of my heroes and this trail will honor his commitment to protection of our coast. The Peter Douglas trail will remind people why areas like this are worth fighting for. We are truly lucky to have inspiring beautiful and biologically rich coastal areas to enjoy. It is my honor to carry on Peter's legacy of strong stewardship of the land.

A note to all Outing leaders—I will be in Italy for the Redwood Needles November 4th deadline. I am going back to my roots. You will receive an email as to who will be the



Benson Hut work party. Leader Jim Gannon.

coordinator for the deadline. Any volunteers? You need to be familiar with the Needles format. The write-up goes to Carl after it is put on the calendar and formatted.

Our executive director Mike Brune spoke to us in Santa Rosa on Sept. 16th. Our Sonoma Group offered him the invitation and he responded. Thank you, Sonoma Group.

Our Outing leaders continue to offer great hikes. Join Ned for Humboldt Redwoods and Horse Mountain. Join Melinda for Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park. Join Tom for the Six Sigma Ranch hike.

Fall is in the air early this year. Our last Benson Hut work party was held in September. There was still significant snow this year on the north side of Mt. Lincoln in June. That hadn't happened in some years. Benson Hut leader Jim Gannon takes all that into consideration when he leads work parties. Benson Hut was named after John Benson Jr. avid skier and Club member. John was killed in WW II in action in Italy. Eugene Miya, work party volunteer, along with others has been collecting history on John Benson. John was a member of the 10th Mountain Battalion. On December 8, 1941, the Army activated its first mountain unit, the 87th Mountain Infantry Battalion at Fort Lewis, Washington. The unit was dubbed "Minnie's Ski Troops". On Nov. 6, 1944 the 10th Division was redesignated the 10th Mountain Division, and John was part of that Army unit. Volunteers are collecting a history of John Benson's life and independently of that our Benson Hut will receive historical evaluation.

See you on the trail.

—CAROL VELLUTINI, REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR



Hauling firewood up to Benson Hut.

Help Save the Sierra Club's Home in Yosemite National Park

The Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center (YCHC) is a National Historic Landmark built by the Sierra Club in 1903. It is the first permanent Visitor Center in Yosemite Valley and home to the Sierra Club's oldest educational program. Featuring rough-hewn granite masonry, a steep-pitched wooden gabled roof, exposed hammer beams, and scissor trusses, the building lends itself to lofty thoughts and inspiration.

Many notable Sierra Club pioneers have guided the program and cared for the building including, Edward T. Parsons, Ansel Adams, Joseph N. LeConte ("Little Joe") and Marion Randall Parsons. Today, the Curator is highly regarded John Muir historian and author, Bonnie J. Gisel, Ph.D.

Since 2002, Bonnie has developed a world-class program that is enjoyed by over 15,000 visitors per year.

"I envision community as a place that embraces an ideal of inclusiveness and brings forth the best in us as human beings to preserve and conserve natural resources, wilderness, and all things wild. Here at YCHC, we share that ideal with visitors from around the world and all walks of life."

Over 100 volunteers staff the Lodge during the summer season between May 1 and September 30. These Sierra Club members greet visitors and introduce them to the Club's vision of environmental stewardship.

Elaine Gorman, Mother Lode Chapter, is one such volunteer. "Seeing the awe and joy on visitors' faces reminds me of the uniqueness Yosemite Valley, and the Sierra Club's activism to get the Valley added to Yosemite National Park in 1906."

A well-stocked library and children's corner are big attractions and all who enter marvel at the beautiful architecture of the building. Well-attended evening programs are presented Friday and Saturday evenings offering a wide variety of topics including natural history, literature, music and photography. This year's

interactive project, "Think Like a Tree" lets kids create an art project and take home information about the life cycle of trees and their importance to our ecosystem.

In 2016, Sierra Club Board of Directors voted to stop funding this unique program. Please help us Save the Sierra Club Home in Yosemite National Park! We need to raise \$90,000 by October 1, 2016 to fund operations for 2017.

The YCHC is where the Sierra Club began its journey to become the influential environmental organization it is today.

Now more than ever, we must remember our story. Please support this effort to save the YCHC for the future. If you are not able to donate, please share our message with others to support the efforts of dedicated volunteers.

Donate online:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/yosemite-heritage-center>

Or, Make payable to:

The Sierra Club Foundation

2101 Webster St., Suite 1250

Oakland, CA 94612

Please write "Restricted to LeConte Memorial Fund" in memo.

For more info contact: Michael Bryant - michael.bryant@sierraclub.org (707) 579-1429.



Photo: Peter Mason

North Group Report

Gray Wolf Recovery and Public Land Grazing

Perhaps you caught the headlines: "Death threats, new conflicts over killing of wolves" or variations on that theme. There has indeed been



OR-25, a recent newcomer to California.

a great deal of controversy over the decision by Washington State's Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to remove an entire wolf pack that had been caught several times killing a rancher's cattle. As of this writing WDFW has killed eleven members of the Profanity Peak Pack, including a breeding female; two adults and a number of pups remain but they too could be killed if they happen to kill a steer, calf or heifer. Furthermore, WDFW has previously removed another wolf pack from the same area to protect a rancher's private cattle and profits.

Controversy over the killing of wolves that get in the habit of killing livestock may seem surprising to those who follow wolf recovery. The practice is, after all, taking place with regularity in every state where wolves have been removed from the federal endangered species list. In those states wolf management has been returned to state control and "depredation" of wolves which kill livestock is a regular, if not quite normal, part of life. The State of Wyoming has even established a trophy wolf hunt.

This instance, however, is different. The wolves in question were living on the Coleville National Forest and the cattle were grazing on that land under a permit issued by the US Forest Service. Killing wolves that kill livestock on private land is one thing; but most Americans

believe that the public lands should be managed for public wildlife, not private cattle.

While one conservation group supports the removal, most have condemned the wolf killing. The Center for Biological Diversity's Amaroq Weiss, a long-time wolf expert who has participated in developing several state plans for wolf management, said that Washington State's Wolf Management protocol is not based on science, adding "We don't support the killing of public wildlife on public land."

Coming to a Forest near You

Closer to home, the Modoc National Forest has proposed reestablishing grazing

on a forest where the now-famous OR-7, a Gray wolf nicknamed "Journey", was wandering just a dozen or so months ago. In its Biological Evaluation in support of a decision to reestablish grazing in the Ash Valley Area, the Forest Service claims that while "potential habitat is present within project area," Gray Wolves are "not expected to be impacted by the proposed action...due to its (the wolf's) transience and capacity to use a variety of habitat."

Neither the Biological Evaluation nor the related environmental analysis acknowledges that a wolf pack is in the area and that there would be pressure from ranchers and others to kill or remove wolves if they happen to predate on cattle newly returned to the Spring Valley area.

Because it would likely result in the killing and removal of wolves, returning cattle to Spring Valley would in fact "impact" the Gray Wolf and its prospects for reestablishment in California. Those who wish to remind Modoc National Forest officials of that fact can send an email message to Big Valley Ranger Chris Christofferson. Send the email to cchristofferson@fs.fed.us and mention your opposition to reestablishing grazing in the Spring Valley area.

Learn more about the proposed Spring Valley Grazing Project, including accessing

the Biological Evaluation and other specialist reports, at this link. (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=33996>)

Wild Wolves are Getting Closer

Or-7 has now found a mate and is rearing young in Southern Oregon. The wide-ranging wolf, whose time in California inspired news articles from the BBC (<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-34020774>) and a host of other international media, could return to California at any time, however. And there is another new wolf pack in the area; its members were caught on camera not far from the Modoc National Forest.

Because of its robust elk herds and open habitat, most of the Modoc is prime wolf habitat. That fact has been confirmed by the first wolves returning to California. Both OR 7, the first radio-collared wolf to enter California in many decades, and the more recent Or-25 have indicated through their wanderings that the open forest habitat and robust elk herds of Northeast California are likely to be where wolves first reestablish in California. Scientists also have concluded that the Klamath Mountains of Northwest California are suitable habitat and have a sufficient prey base to support returning wolves.

It is just a matter of time before wild wolves howl again on the Siskiyou Crest and deep in the Klamath Wilderness. Conflicts with cattle grazing on public land within wilderness are possible, perhaps inevitable. There will be harsh and insistent calls to kill or remove the wolves. It will fall to members of this environmental community to defend them.

Maybe the Wolves can Help

Here's the link to a study (https://www.researchgate.net/publication/302979347_Livestock_grazing_limits_beaver_restoration_in_northern_New_Mexico) that looked at why beaver restoration on national forests has not been successful on many sites that appear to be "suitable" due to the size of the stream, the stream gradient, etc.

And here's what that study concluded: "The availability of willows (*Salix* spp.) was the most important plant variable for the presence of beaver dams. We conclude that grazing by cattle as currently practiced on Forest Service allotments disrupts the beaver-willow mutualism, rendering stream reaches unsuitable for dam-building beavers. We recommend that beaver restoration will require changes to current livestock management practices."

Livestock grazing on the Klamath National Forest has degraded and fragmented the large, and relatively rare, willow wetlands that provide breeding habitat for Willow Flycatchers, a



Black Meadows fragmented willow stands.

California endangered species. Beaver have been eliminated in the Klamath National Forest as well.

Maybe the return of Gray Wolves will help restore these native species. That can happen without the wolves killing any cattle. All that is needed is for wolves to "inspire" the cattle to move from preferred locations, thereby reducing impacts to willow and other wetlands.

—FELICE PACE,

REDWOOD CHAPTER GRAZING CHAIR



With your help we can protect the wolf

Wolves are vitally important to maintaining nature's balance, culling out weak and sick animals to keep populations of elk and deer healthy and in check. The Sierra Club is working to defend wolf populations from continued threats from politicians.

Lead the pack & JOIN Sierra Club.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club
 Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX
 Cardholder Name _____
 Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____
 Signature _____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35	N/A
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekend Bag!



SIERRA CLUB
 FOUNDED 1913

9940 0300 1

Enclose a check and mail to:
 Sierra Club, PO Box 421041
 Palm Coast, FL 32140-1041
 or visit our website: www.sierraclub.org

North Group Needs Your Help!

First and foremost, we have an immediate need for a North Group Secretary. Your curiosity and willingness to attend our congenial monthly meetings in Eureka are the main requirements. Outings Chair and Leaders, and other formal and informal jobs are also available. Sierra Club and the natural world can use your unique talents. Do join us at your earliest convenience! Contact Gregg gregggold@aol.com or Ned eaf7@humboldt.edu for more details.

Ready for Your First Night in the Snow?

- Early Bird Applications: 2016-11-30
- Applications: December 17, 2016
- Classroom Training: January 7, 2017

Avid backpackers wanting to extend the season, and skiers or snow shoers wishing to stay out multiple days, the Sierra Club Snow Camping Series training is for you!

Offered throughout the winter months, this class teaches outdoor enthusiasts how to make the right decisions that will ensure an enjoyable and safe winter trip. Attend a one day seminar, held in the Bay Area on the first Saturday of January to learn of all aspects of trip preparation and equipment choices. Then go out on two weekends in the Sierra Nevada in small to mid-size groups. Trips are run cooperatively, led by experienced volunteers, all alumni of the Series. No guiding fee involved! Check out www.snowcamping.org for more information. Some trip dates are already published.

Sierra Club Solano Group Executive Committee meetings are usually on the first Monday of each month, at Denny's Cordelia, 7 pm. All Sierra Club members welcome. Call Jane at 707-644-9183, or Greg at 707-386-6411 to confirm.

VALCORE Recycling and Paper Shredding updates:

Solano Group will be helping out with paper shredding every 3rd Saturday of the month at 38 Sheridan Street, Vallejo, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The charge is only \$10 (CASH or CHECK ONLY) per twenty pounds of paper shredded, but volunteers get FREE shredding! (Maximum: 100 pounds).

There is also WEEKDAY SHREDDING from 10 am to 4 pm, closed 1 pm to 2 pm for lunch (CREDIT OR DEBIT ONLY).

Sierra Club volunteers help tend the money and direct traffic. Once a year is all we ask, and you only need work an hour or so.

Solano Group of the Sierra Club Announces Opposition to Proposed Vallejo Orcem Cement Factory & Maritime Terminal

For both environmental and environmental justice reasons, the Solano Group of the Sierra Club has announced its opposition to the proposed Orcem cement factory and Vallejo Marine Terminal facility—largely because the great harm to Vallejo's poorest residents.

Solano Breeze Corner

Covering Benicia, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun, Vacaville and Vallejo

sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com
707-319-6398

The Sierra Club group said the project would be “detrimental to the overall well-being of Vallejoans, and specifically damaging to one of our poorest neighborhoods,” adding “we feel that this is not only an environmental issue but also an environmental justice issue.”

Among other considerations, the group said there is no infrastructure to support the increased truck traffic (with estimates between 150 and 300 trucks a day), dust from the factory (with winds usually blowing in from the west and directly into the adjacent neighborhood) and pollution from the ships that will be docked at the facility.

“We also have concerns about tidal spread of effluents into the neighboring water shed including agricultural lands extending into Napa County. Given the economic toll to the adjacent neighborhood (including the grade school which is only 1320 feet from the proposed plant) we feel that the long term costs

of this plant far outweigh any proposed benefits,” said Doug Darling, Watershed Chair, Solano Group Sierra Club.

The elementary school that sits adjacent to the site serves the poorest part of Vallejo and the plant would pollute the poorest neighborhood in Vallejo— not anywhere east of the freeway in the wealthier neighborhoods, the group said.

Quoting directly from the South Vallejo Health Impact Assessment that Orcem consultants produced as part of the General Planning process, “South Vallejo suffers disproportionately from negative health impacts and the community is likely to deteriorate if this project is sited there.”

The Solano Group's analysis and decision mirrored that of Fresh Air Vallejo, which in June criticized studies of the environmental effects of the Orcem plant, and said the Environmental Justice Analysis was influenced by consultants favoring the cement factory and terminal, suggesting the report is biased.

“Both adults and children in South Vallejo had high emergency room visits for asthma...roughly double the statewide rate of 66.4 per 10,000 visits to the ER. Mortality rates from cancer and heart disease are higher than those of the county. This project is an environmental nightmare for our poorest residents,” charged Joe Feller ExCom co-chair.

CONTRIBUTORS: JANE BOGNER, JOE FELLER

EDITOR: GREG PETERSON

Lake Group Report

Middletown Dollar General: Not So Fast!

For the past few months Lake Group has been closely following a proposal to construct a Dollar General outlet in Middletown. In April the Planning Commission unanimously rejected the application because of numerous inconsistencies with the General Plan and Area Plan, and the Board of Supervisors was expected to support their position, as they had regarding a similar proposal in Kelseyville—but instead they voted 3-2 to support the appeal and grant the Major Use Permit pending Planning Commission Design Review.

The BOS and county counsel did explicitly confirm that the Planning Commission retains full authority to determine whether the Project as presented is in conformity with the General Plan and MAP, and that the BOS decision is “subject to” and “contingent upon” the Commission's review of the Project. Nor is the Commission's purview strictly limited to design elements.

When the Planning Commission met on August 25 a lively discussion took place on all these points, with members of the public (led by Lake Group chair Ed Robey) urging the PC to reaffirm their original rejection of the project. Photographs of Dollar General facilities elsewhere also demonstrated that the company has sometimes been willing to make far more substantial modifications to both architecture and signage than those presented to date—IF the community insists.

Another hearing will be scheduled later, and in the meantime local residents have been asked to work with

the developer to improve the design, though many doubt whether visual modifications can EVER satisfy the fundamental discrepancy between the business, the building, and the will of the community as expressed in the Middletown Area Plan. Stay tuned.

Wild Diamond: Perception and Reality

This project for a modestly-sized vineyard, winery, tasting room and visitor center has aroused an extraordinarily high level of anxiety among nearby residents who fear that it would have untenable impacts on the environment and on their quality of life and property values.

Although Lake Group has not yet taken a formal position on the project, after careful review of the Environmental Impact Report we have concluded that few if any of the sometimes dramatically-expressed concerns are warranted, and that all potentially negative impacts can probably be mitigated below the level of significance. We also identified several ways to reduce environmental damage and possible effects on project neighbors.

We are making the case for our recommendations before the Planning Commission and urge all concerned members of the community to participate. These hearings provide a priceless opportunity to find out the truth about what Wild Diamond really is and how it will (and will not) affect its neighbors, and also to simultaneously improve the outcome, learn about sustainable viticultural practices, and relieve rumor-fed anxieties. Additional hearings are expected in October.

—VICTORIA BRANDON, LAKE GROUP CONSERVATION CHAIR

Napa Group Report

Walt Ranch Appeal

The Napa watershed, and to fight global warming, the Napa Group has filed an appeal to the County Supervisors to reverse the decision to allow the Walt Ranch project to destroy 270 acres of pristine oak woodland on Atlas Peak. We are not alone. Four other entities, including the Circle Oaks Homes Association and Water District, the Living Rivers Council, the Center for Biological Diversity, and a private citizen, have also filed appeals. Issues include threats to groundwater, soil stability, rare species, and sedimentation into water supplies.

The 3 days of hearings are scheduled for November and December.

Globally, deforestation is the second most important driver of climate change. Napa can't take on the issue planetwide, but we can try to protect our own backyard.

Movie Night!

“Soil:Addressing Climate Change from the Ground Up”

An evening of short films hosted by the Napa Sierra Club, Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Committee, Napa Sonoma Heifer International Volunteers.

Friday, October 14, 7-9pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1625 Salvador Ave., Napa

Keep Abreast of Napa Events and Issues

Contact us at napavalleyssierraclub@gmail.com to receive our monthly e-mail newsletter. We promise not to bombard you with messages, or share your address with other organizations.

—NANCY TAMARISK, NAPA GROUP CHAIR

Bay Area Air Quality Management District Subsidizes Fireplace and Wood Stove Conversions

Redwood Chapter members who live in the Bay Area Air Quality Management District— which includes all of Solano and Napa Counties and southern Sonoma County— may want to investigate a new program to help them replace older, more polluting fireplaces and wood-burning stoves with cleaner options.

Residential wood burning is the leading cause of air pollution in the Bay Area during the winter. Particulate matter and toxics from wood smoke is dangerous to our health. That's why reducing wood smoke is key to improving air quality and public health in our region.

Here are the details:

- \$3 million in program funding will be available for individual grants in amounts ranging from \$750 - \$12,000.
- Apply online at www.baaqmd.gov/WoodsmokeGrant, or call 415-749-5195 to request a paper copy of the application.

- Applicants must own residential property within the Air District's jurisdiction that contains an operational wood-burning stove or fireplace used for heating.

- 40 percent of program funding has been prioritized for Highly Impacted Residents, which includes low-income residents, residents located in areas highly affected by wood smoke, and households whose wood-burning device is their sole source of heat.

Residents can apply for one of the following project options:

- Replace a wood-burning stove or fireplace with an electric heat pump: \$3,500 grant
- Replace a wood-burning stove or fireplace with a natural gas or propane fueled device: \$1,000 grant
- Decommission (render inoperable) a fireplace or wood-burning stove: \$750 grant

In addition “highly-impacted applicants,” including those enrolled in PG&E's CARE program or equivalent, or those whose sole source of heat is a wood-burning device, may be eligible for additional funding up to \$12,000.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact grants@baaqmd.gov or 415-749-5195.



2016 Sierra Club Endorsed Measures



Yes on Measure K: Protect Open Space and Farm Lands from Sprawl

Sierra Club is urging a yes vote on Measure K to renew voter protections for the open space and farm lands surrounding Sonoma County's towns and cities for another 20 years. Officially titled the Community Separator Protection Ordinance, Measure K will protect a total of 53,576 acres of open space and farm lands from subdivision and sprawl.

Measure K is endorsed by a growing list of elected officials, community leaders, conservation groups, farmers, housing advocates, developers and businesses that are listed at KeepCommunitySeparators.com. A diverse group signed the argument in favor of Measure K for the voters' pamphlet: Greenbelt Alliance, Sonoma County Conservation Action, Sonoma County Farm Bureau, Katie Jackson of Jackson Family Wines, and Mike Wright of Wright Contracting. No opposition argument was filed.

Measure K preserves agriculture and the viability of family farms as well as waterways, drinking water, groundwater and recharge areas, wildlife corridors, hillsides, and woodlands. By protecting natural lands, it also offers clean air, water, and climate resiliency.

The total acreage is nearly triple the acreage designated in the original eight community separators. The maps including the new areas approved by the Board of Supervisors on August 2 will be included in the voter pamphlet.

If Measure K doesn't pass, all the community separators remain in place in the General Plan. However, it would open the door to inappropriate development such as shopping malls, resort hotels and sprawl with a simple majority vote of the supervisors.

Measure K costs taxpayers nothing to keep our county beautiful and requires only a simple majority to pass.

Urban Growth Boundaries combined with Community Separators form the backbone of city-centered growth policies in Sonoma County. It has enabled our county to hold back sprawl and prevented us from making the mistakes made in other parts of the Bay Area.

Measure K is one of the most important

greenbelt policy measures in Sonoma County in decades.

Please vote yes and endorse Measure K and contribute to the Yes on Measure K campaign keepcommunityseparators.com Stay up to date at <https://www.facebook.com/communityseparators/>

Join us for the Celebrate the Community Separators fundraiser at 2 pm on Sunday, Oct. 2, at the White Barn in Sonoma Valley and pick up a yard sign! Sign up here: <http://www.keepcommunityseparators.com/events/>

Greenbelts are goldmines for our environment, people and economy.

We need you with us to get endorsements, table at public events, and donate to the community separator campaign ballot measure. We'll need to send mailers, make signs, hold events and be ready to combat any opposition. Watch for a festive event in one of the most beautiful community separators during the harvest season in late September!

Stay engaged and up to date on the new Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/communityseparators/>

To get involved, contact Teri Shore at tshore@greenbelt.org or 707 575 3661

—TERI SHORE, SONOMA GROUP EXCOM



Sierra Club's Positions on Statewide Ballot Measures

November's ballot is jam packed with 16 statewide initiatives and one referendum.

Sierra Club California's staff and volunteers are continuing to cull through those measures, but as of this writing, the volunteer-led initiative review process has identified four measures on which the Club has taken a position.

Specifically, Sierra Club is urging a "Yes" vote on Proposition 56, Proposition 58, Proposition 59 and Proposition 67. The measures are briefly described below.

Other measures may be considered as the election approaches. For the latest updates on Sierra Club California positions on statewide measures, check out <http://www.sierraclubcalifornia.org> and follow the "Elections" link located under the "Get Involved" menu tab at the top of the homepage.

You can find the full text of these and other initiatives on the ballot at the Secretary of State's website, sos.ca.gov.

Measures with Positions

Prop. 67: Referendum to Overturn Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags –YES (Support)

By voting yes on this measure, you will be voting to keep the statewide plastic bag ban signed into law in 2014. A "yes" on this measure is a yes to a clean environment and an end to single-use grocery bags that pollute waterways, harm wildlife, and create a long-lasting litter problem. A "yes" will say no to big out-of-state plastic manufacturers who put this measure on the ballot to try to stop enforcement of the statewide ban. Website: www.cayeson67.com/

Prop. 56: Cigarette Tax to Fund Healthcare, Tobacco Use Prevention, Research, and Law Enforcement—YES (Support)

A "yes" vote on this measure will increase the sales tax on cigarettes by \$2 per pack, and e-cigarettes would be taxed on an equivalent level. The tobacco tax has not been raised since 1998.

Sierra Club has long supported reducing public exposure to air pollution, including pollution from cigarettes, and has supported cigarette taxes as a tool for smoking reduction. Cigarette taxes help increase the cost of smoking, discourage smoking and fund anti-smoking education.

Prop 58: California Education for a Global Economy Initiative (EdGE)—YES (Support)

Would overturn restrictions on bilingual education that were imposed in 1998 by Proposition 227.

The California EdGE Initiative allows every student in California the chance to get the most appropriate language instruction and, therefore, become engaged residents who can effectively speak out for the environment and public health.

Prop. 59: Advisory Resolution to Ask for Overturn of the Citizens United Supreme Court Decision

Would direct California elected officials to use their authority to help overturn Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, a 2010 U.S. Supreme Court ruling. This authority could include ratifying a federal constitutional amendment to overturn the ruling. That ruling established that corporations are "citizens", essentially have the same rights as human beings, and therefore may spend without constraint to influence elections. This decision has led to the increased—and increasing—spending by oil companies and other polluting entities to influence legislative and local elections.

—KATHRYN PHILLIPS,
SIERRA CLUB CALIFORNIA DIRECTOR

Brandon's Political Impact Profiled

Members of the Sierra Club National Political Team, including Redwood Chapter Chair Victoria Brandon, were featured in the July edition of Sierra Club's *Insider*.



As the chair of the Sierra Club Political Team's endorsement subcommittee, I'm responsible for coordinating, evaluating, and expediting federal endorsements all over the United States. Tasks include encouraging Chapters to propose endorsements for our Congressional champions in a timely manner, determining whether the process has been fair, transparent, and in accordance with the Club's political guidelines, and providing subcommittee members with the information they need when the decision to endorse (or not) is obscure. Although lacking the media frenzy surrounding the Presidential race, electing federal legislators who are passionate advocates for the environment is just as important to meeting our long term goals, and it is immensely stimulating and also humbling to play a role in this vital endeavor.

I'm also co-chair of the Sierra Club California Political Committee, which involves similar responsibilities on the state level.

Wearing a different hat, as chair of the Redwood Chapter in northwest California, I have an opportunity to work for my personal passions, which are the protection of wilderness, wildlife, and public lands. Despite the discouraging atmosphere in Washington, we have rejoiced in several dramatic victories recently, including the designation of 330,000-acre Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument last summer, and just this spring the decision to remove four geriatric dams on the Klamath River that have impeded fish passage and impaired water quality for many years. Working together, we can get things done!

2016 Redwood Chapter and Group Elections Schedule

August 10, 2016: Appointment of Chapter Nominating and Elections Committees.

September 8, 2016: Appointment of Nominating Committee by Groups.

October 6, 2016: Receipt of all candidates' applications (statement of intent to run) with contact information, for consideration by Group Nominating Committees.

October 13, 2016: Group Nominating Committees inform all potential candidates of their status and submit lists of candidates, with contact information, to their respective ExCom and Chapter Election Committees.

October 27, 2016: Group Nominating Committees submit ballot statements to Election Committee.

October 27, 2016: Statements are sent for December *Redwood Needles*.

November 7, 2016: Receipt of ballot petitions and ballot statements by election Committee. Approved statements sent for December *Redwood Needles*.

December 30, 2016: Ballots due in office.

January 2, 2017: Ballots counted. Notify all candidates, Chapter ExCom and *Redwood Needles* of results.

Non-Sierra Club Outings & Events

The following activities and events are not sponsored nor administered by the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club has no information about the planning of these activities and makes no representations or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of such activities. They are published because they may be of interest to the readers of this publication.

Saturday Saunters for Santa Rosa Area.

Every Saturday. Meets 9 am and usually ends around 11:30. These walks are moderate. Fun way to exercise with friends. For info call Bob Martin 707-539-6300 bphoto@comcast.net.

Sonoma County Regional Parks trail work days.

On the day of the project you can call 707-548-4424 for an update or if you get lost coming to the park. Your support and dedication to our County's trails really makes a big difference. To RSVP for any of these projects please call John at 707-565-3356. ParksVolunteer@sonoma-county.org

Volunteer Days Riverkeeper Stewardship Park in Guerneville, Every Wednesday.

9 a.m. - Noon, for all or part of the time. Park is located on the north bank of Russian River directly upstream Guerneville pedestrian bridge. Access entrance from the driveway in front of Sonoma Nesting Co. (16132 Main Street, just east of Armstrong Woods Rd.) At bottom of driveway look for blue & white "Russian Riverkeeper Stewardship Park" sign. Bring drinking water & wear sturdy footwear. Light refreshments provided. Info Victoria Wikle 865-2474 VictoriaWikle@usa.net.

Kit Carson Lodge

Are You Looking For Winter Lodging Away From The Maddening Crowds of Lake Tahoe and Ski Resorts?

Come to Polar Bear Cottage. The back country and Silver Lake are right outside your front door where you can play in the snow, cross-country ski or snowshoe.

You are at the edge of the wilderness, isolated from the highway, yet minutes away from Kirkwood ski resort and 45 minutes away from South Lake Tahoe.

Polar Bear Cottage, Rustic elegance for up to 6 persons

phone: (209) 258-8500 • www.KitCarsonLodge.com

Meetings

Send all Meeting events by the 8th of the month to Carl Inglin: chinglin@sonic.net Sierra Club meetings are open to all members. You are welcome to participate or observe as often as you wish. Meetings are located in Sonoma County unless otherwise noted. Visitors should call the committee chair to verify time and place. The Sonoma County Environmental Center is located at 55A Ridgway Avenue in Santa Rosa (West of Hwy 101, two blocks North of College and 1 1/2 blocks West off of Cleveland Ave, South of Coddington).

Mon. Oct. 3 - Sonoma Group.

Conservation Committee 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

Thurs. Oct. 6 - Solano Group ExCom.

Come join us for our monthly meetings which rotate between Vallejo, Fairfield and Vacaville. We are making a positive impact on our county and need a few more people to help carry the load. Call Jane for information. (707)319-6398.

Tues. Oct. 11 - North Group.

The public is invited to attend the monthly meeting of our governing committee. Join us for a discussion of local conservation issues between 7:45 and 8:45 p.m., following the ExCom business meeting from 6:45-7:45 p.m. Meet at Adorni Center Conference Room on Eureka Waterfront. For more info, call Gregg at 707-826-3740.

Sat., Nov. 5 - Redwood Chapter ExCom. And ConsCom.

Location: Willits at the Super 8 Motel. Conservation Committee meets at 10 a.m., ExCom meets 1-3 p.m. Info: Victoria vbrandon@lakelive.info

Mon. Nov. 7 - Sonoma Group.

Conservation Committee at 5:30 pm - 6:30 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

Tues. Nov. 8 - North Group.

The public is invited to attend the monthly meeting of our governing committee. Join us for a discussion of local conservation issues between 7:45 and 8:45 p.m., following the ExCom business meeting from 6:45-7:45 p.m. Meet at Adorni Center Conference Room on Eureka Waterfront. For more info, call Gregg at 707-826-3740.

Tues. Nov. 15 - Napa Group ExCom.

7 p.m. Our location varies; it is generally at a member's home. Anyone wishing to attend the meeting should contact the chair, Nancy Tamarisk at napaquail@gmail.com

Thurs. Nov. 17 - Solano Group ExCom.

Come join us for our monthly meetings which rotate between Vallejo, Fairfield and Vacaville. We are making a positive impact on our county and need a few more people to help carry the load. Call Jane for information. (707)319-6398.

Help Wanted: Redwood Chapter Seeks Communications Coordinator

Redwood Chapter is hiring a communications coordinator to strengthen connections with our members and help us send a strong environmental message to the general public.

Working closely with volunteer leaders, this talented individual will develop and launch a biweekly email newsletter to supplement the bimonthly *Redwood Needles*, manage social media outreach including the creation of a Twitter feed, pitch Sierra Club stories to the press, assist local groups in connecting with members, and organize a series of public forums in Santa Rosa. Strong communications and computer

skills are essential, and a passion for protecting the planet.

This half-time job will be based in Sonoma County though some telecommuting may be possible, and is expected to last about six months, with an extension also possible.

A full job description and link to the application form is available on the Club Careers website, <http://bit.ly/29ArKGN>. Chapter Chair Victoria Brandon is also glad to answer questions: feel free to call her at 707 994 1931 or to send an email to vbrandon@lakelive.info.

Calendars are available for purchase at the Environmental Center at 55 Ridgway, Santa Rosa. Call for hours: 707-544-7651. If ordering by mail, shipping is \$2 per calendar. The mailing address is Sierra Club, PO Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95402. If you would like to pay by credit card, please order from the general

**Sierra Club website: <https://store.sierraclub.org/sierra-club-store-c27.aspx>
Your purchases directly benefit Sierra Club's conservation work.**



Enjoy, explore and protect the planet

2017 Sierra Club Calendars



Order Form			
Item	Cost	Qty	Total
Engagement Calendar	\$14.95	_____	_____
Wilderness Calendar	\$13.95	_____	_____
			Subtotal: _____
			Sales Tax: _____
			Shipping: _____
			GRAND TOTAL: _____

Please make checks payable to "Sierra Club" and mail to the return address shown on your newsletter

Ship To:
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (_____) _____
 Email _____



Sierra Club Endorsements

Local Ballot Measures

Sonoma County:

YES on Measure J
1/2 cent sales tax for Parks

YES on Measure K
Community Separators

YES on Measure M
Genetically Engineered
Crop Ban

YES on Measure Y
1/8 cent sales tax for
Libraries

Napa County:

YES on Measure Z
1/4 cent sales tax for Parks

California Ballot Measures:

Yes on Prop. 56
Cigarette Tax

YES on Prop. 58
Multilingual Education

YES on Prop. 59
Oppose Citizen's United

YES on Prop. 67
Plastic Bag Referendum

**See page 10 for information about
Measure K and State Propositions**

Nonprofit
PRST STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 363
Petaluma, CA



Redwood Needles
Sierra Club
Redwood Chapter
P.O. Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95402